

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A microprocessor for processing instructions, comprising:

a plurality of clusters for receiving the instructions, each of the clusters having a plurality of functional units for executing the instructions; and

a plurality of register sub-files each having a plurality of registers for storing data for executing the instructions, wherein the register sub-files each have a same number of registers;

wherein each of the clusters is associated with corresponding one of the register sub-files so that an instruction dispatched to a cluster is executed by accessing registers in a register sub-file associated with the cluster to which the instruction is dispatched, and wherein each of the register sub-files has one write port to which a corresponding cluster sends data to be written into registers in a register sub-file associated with the corresponding cluster.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 1, further including a register-renaming unit for renaming target registers in an instruction with registers in a register sub-file associated with a cluster to which the instruction is dispatched.

5. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 4, wherein the register-renaming unit identifies a register to be used to store a value named by a target register in the instruction.

6. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 4, further including issue-queue units each of which is associated with a corresponding one of the clusters, an issue-queue unit holding instruction renamed by the register-renaming unit until the renamed instruction is issued to be executed in a cluster associated with the issue-queue unit.

7. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 6, wherein each of the issue-queue units holds state identifying which instructions need to be executed.

8. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 6, further including an instruction dispatch mechanism for determining which of the clusters each instruction is dispatched to.

9. (Original) The microprocessor of claim 8, wherein the instruction dispatch mechanism controls the issue-queue units to determine which of the instructions need to be executed.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for processing an instruction in a microprocessor, comprising:

a plurality of ~~at least one~~ clusters having at least one functional unit for executing the instruction; and

a plurality of ~~at least one~~ register files having a predetermined number of physical registers to and from which data is write and read in accordance with the instruction,

wherein each of the ~~at least one~~ register files has one write port to which an output of a corresponding ~~the at least one~~ cluster is connected, and data write operation in accordance with the instruction executed by the at least one functional unit is performed by accessing the physical registers of the at least one register file, and wherein each of the plurality of register files has at least one read port from which any of the plurality of clusters can read data.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of ~~the at least one~~ clusters includes multiple functional units each for executing different instructions.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, further including means for renaming architected registers of the instruction with the physical registers of each of the plurality of the at least one register files.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the architected registers are target registers in which a result of the instruction is stored.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, further including at least one issue-queue unit associated with the plurality of at least one clusters, for holding instruction renamed by the means for renaming until the instruction is issued to be executed in one of the plurality of at least one clusters.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for processing instructions in a microprocessor, comprising the steps of:

- providing clusters each having functional units for executing the instructions;
- dividing a register file into a plurality of register sub-files each having registers to store data for executing the instructions, wherein the register sub-files each have a same number of registers;
- associating each of the register sub-files with corresponding one of the clusters;
- providing one write port for each of the register sub-files so that a cluster associated with a register sub-file sends data to be written to a write port of the register sub-file;
- selecting a cluster to which an instruction is dispatched;
- renaming target registers in the instruction with registers in a register sub-file associated with the selected cluster; and
- dispatching the instruction to the selected cluster wherein the instruction is executed by functional units.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the renaming step includes identifying a register in a register sub-file to be used to store value named by a target register in the instruction.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, further including holding an instruction renamed in the renaming step until the renamed instruction is issued to be executed by a cluster.